

NASA Referral Not Required

OSA-6231-63
11 December 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Supersonic Transport

REFERENCE: Memorandum written by [redacted] Engineering
Consultant, dated 25 October 1963, same subject

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25X1 1. In connection with the reference document which is a brief and informal proposal from [redacted] to build a small SST out of air frame #16 on the production line, I had occasion to mention this to Mr. Najeeb Halaby, FAA Administrator, during the latter's one hour visit with OSA last week.

2. Mr. Halaby seemed considerably impressed with the prospect and asked me if I felt that "Kelly Johnson could build such an aircraft at a fixed price." To this my response was in the affirmative and Mr. Halaby asked me how many dollars were involved and when such an aircraft could be completed. I said my own informal guess would be around [redacted] or just above, and a year's delivery might not be out of the question. Halaby indicated that he would like to go into this matter further when he returns from Russia later this month.

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3. During a brief chat with Kelly Johnson in the office late last week I told him I had surfaced this matter to Halaby and that the latter seemed actively interested. Kelly, of course, raised the question of whether or not such an aircraft might have to be civilian registered and, if so, how much of a certification program would be involved. Were this to be the case, I am sure that certification would take many months and cost many millions of dollars and would only be applicable if there were to be follow-on orders for more of the same kinds of planes. In that sense I think that such a pilot model SST would be more of a freak than a fashion, since it could not be considered in any way economical with only a ten passenger capacity.

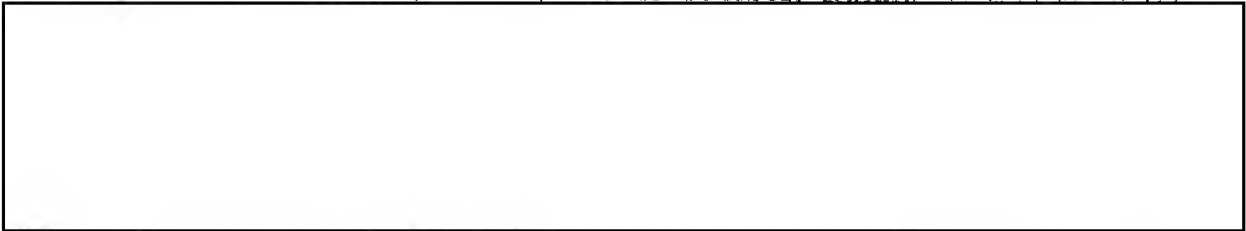
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Mr. Kelly Johnson said that as far as providing the FAA with a tool to develop route structures, airway traffic control, landing and navigation

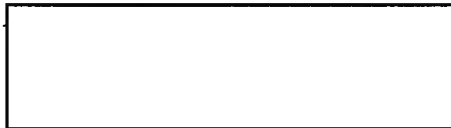


holiday shortly after the first of the year, and see how long his interest really is.

WILLIAM H. CUNNINGHAM, JR.
Deputy Assistant Director
(Special Activities)

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